



# HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

## Democratic Caucus

The Honorable John M. Spratt Jr. ■ Ranking Democratic Member

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## Public Opinion Favors Democrats on Budget

Dear Democratic Colleague:

Attached is updated polling data showing that Americans recognize that Democrats do a better job than Republicans of handling the federal budget.

According to the latest Democracy Corps polling, by 62 percent to 31 percent, respondents believe that the country should “go in a significantly different direction” than the one being promoted by President Bush on the federal budget. This two-to-one margin is the largest for any of the dozen issues included in the poll.

Clearly, our message about the budget is resonating. On this Administration’s watch, a \$5.6 trillion projected ten-year surplus has been converted into the largest deficits in American history. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the President’s policies will result in a deficit of \$2.9 trillion over the same period — an \$8.5 trillion reversal. In fact, the picture is even grimmer, because the CBO projections do not include the cost of a number of Administration policies — like funding for military operations in Iraq — that were omitted from the budget. The unfortunate truth is that Republicans simply have no plan to bring the budget back to balance.

During Congressional consideration of this year’s budget resolution, Democrats stood unanimously against the misguided priorities put forward in the Republican budget. We put forward a strong Democratic alternative that would fund the nation’s priorities and still return the budget to balance within eight years. This new polling data confirms that our message is being heard, and that the public rejects the Republican budget policies that we have worked hard to defeat.

Sincerely,

/s

John M. Spratt, Jr.

Ranking Democratic Member

Q.30 Now I'd like you to think about some specific issues. When it comes to each issue, please tell me whether you believe the country should continue in the direction Bush is headed or go in a significantly different direction.

		Diff	Bush					Diff
	Diff	Not	Not	Bush	DK/	Total	Total	-
	Strng	Strng	Strng	Strng	Ref	Diff	Bush	Bush
31 The war on terrorism.....	35	7	8	48	2	42	56	-14
32 Foreign policy.....	45	8	9	31	8	52	40	13
33 The economy .....	48	9	10	31	2	57	41	16
34 Taxes .....	40	10	10	36	3	51	46	4
35 Health care.....	52	9	12	21	7	60	33	28
36 The federal budget.....	53	9	13	18	7	62	31	31
37 Prescription drug coverage for seniors .....	46	9	12	21	12	55	33	22
38 Iraq.....	48	6	9	35	2	54	44	11
39 Education .....	40	10	12	31	7	51	42	8
40 Jobs in America.....	50	8	9	30	3	58	39	19
41 Middle class living standards .....	41	9	12	29	9	51	41	10
42 National priorities on which problems and issues we address.....	40	9	10	32	10	49	41	8
(ref:BUSHDIR)								